

ZEROBEAT

10-96

Hampden County Radio Association

Our 50th ARRL Affiliated Year

Issue 2

October 1996

Next HCRA Meeting

The October HCRA meeting was scheduled to have a presentation by Dennis from Jade Antennas. Unfortunately, due to prior commitments, he will not be able to make it. He has assured us that he will be at a future meeting.

In the meantime the HCRA Board of Directors is in the process of cooking up a great program for this coming meeting! See you at the October 4th meeting at 8:00 pm sharp!

Don't forget, bring your dues to the October meeting. Our Treasurer, Greg, N1AEH, will be looking for you!

President's Message

Due to Bob, WF1R's travel commitments, I was unable to hook up with him for this month's President's Message. Next month we hope to go high-tech as soon as I figure out how to download messages from the Internet!

Vox Pop

(Dedicated to newsworthy items hopefully without insulting anyone.)

***** Art, W1KK is approaching that milestone of nine decades with over 70% of that being involved with ham radio! He's been a ham longer than I've been alive! Who else out there is having a birthday of that magnitude...give me a call! ***** Due to a snafu in the Wilbraham Peach Parade committee our crew didn't get an opportunity to participate in this year's parade. Hey guys and

gals....I hope those peaches didn't get sour! ***** If all goes well, Barry N1IJK will get premiere performance as editor next month. So hold all your complaints for Barry! *****

Al Sittard, WB1EMN

Some of you may remember Al, WB1EMN from the club during the early to mid 80's. He was a member of the DX Honor Roll and very active during that time from his Chicopee home. Al passed away on June 2 of this year.

More known by his accomplishments in the field of music and music education, he still had some time to give to the HCRA and the running of the club. He will be sadly missed by all.

Editor's Message.....

My editorial last month about our Section Managers from the Fitchburg/Leominster area elicited an immediate response from our current SM, Bill Voedish, W1UD. (I got a phone call before I even had my Zerobeat in hand!)

Bill assured me that other clubs in the section, including the HCRA would be fairly represented. (Look for something about the HCRA in the next QST!)

Of course club editors must keep their end of the bargain and make sure that Bill is on the mailing list. Bill, a tip of the rubber duck to you for the fast response!

Got a gripe....or a problem with the club, the officers and directors, the newsletter or (God forbid) the editor. Send me your comments or give me a call! All written comments must be signed.

Steve Nelson WA1EYF
1 Marilyn Drive
Wilbraham, MA 01095
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DXing Today.....

How's DX.....one word from those of us who remember 6 years ago..... lousy. I can recall when 10 meters was so crowded you had to ask if the frequency is in use. But those of us who bother to turn on the HF rig can find something out there.

How about some help... Would you like to write something for this column?

Don't Forget.....

Renew those dues! Our Treasurer, Greg, N1AEH will be at the next meeting to take your money. Without renewal, your last Zerobeat will be November 1996!

ARRL New England Convention in Boxborough, MA, Oct 5,6,7.

MTARA meeting , Friday Oct 18, Holyoke Soldiers Home.

VHF/UHF Newsnotes

If you missed the last meeting, you missed a great presentation by our own Fred, N1DPM on setting up a VHF/UHF station.

Fred talked about the basics for the station and showed some modest stations from some of the members. The point being - you don't have to have a mountain top location with a 100 element yagi and 1500 watts to work many grid squares (states) around the country. I can attest to that because during the last opening on six meters this summer I worked out into Georgia and Missouri with 10 watts and four elements at 58 feet!

Of course there was one slide of a VHF/UHF antenna taken to the extreme.....right Frank?

PC Bits & Bytes

Did you know that you can look at the person you are talking to on the internet?! You can also speak to him or her! For some time now there have been microphones and "Quick-Cams" available for PCs.

Most sound cards have an extra input for a mic, so it makes it easy for someone to start talking. Although I've never done two way, I understand that when you are in a "chat room" you can use your mic and sound card to actually carry on a conversation with the people in the room. It's like being on simplex though, you can't listen while you transmit and vice-versa. The person listening winds up hearing anyone else who is also talking in the "room". I guess it can sound like a crowded room at times!

The "Quick-Cams" (I think that's how you spell it!) allow people to see you. When they first came out they were quite pricey but have now come down to the price range of the average PC buff. There is a black and white model which now sells for under \$100 and a color model with decent resolution on a 486DX2 66 for less than \$200.

There are programs such as "See You See Me" which allow the camera to run.

This is almost like "Big Brother" - keep the camera on and all can see what you're up to!

I'm thinking about picking up one of those gadgets, so hope to SEE you on the Internet!

Steve WA1EYF
596-8216

FOR SALE OR SWAP

Complete HF Station-

Icom 735 with 500 and 250 hz cw filters \$700

MFJ Deluxe Versa Tuner II, Model 949D \$75

Benchner Low Pass Filter \$25

Astron RS 20 Power Supply that needs some work \$25 (Astron will repair it for \$30 plus shipping)

Phone Gene, AA1DM at 535-2542 for information.

Contact Steve WA1EYF (596-8216) with your sale or swap items!

Would you like.....

to write a column for Zerobeat. Let me interview you on the phone instead of having you sit down and write it!

to volunteer to help at one event! See Barry, N1IJK at the next meeting.

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HCRA '96-'97 Meeting Schedule

November 1, 1996
Annual HCRA Auction

December 6, 1996
Holiday Social

Club meetings are held at the Feeding Hill Congregational Church on Rt 187 at 8:00 pm on the first friday of every month except July and August or as noted. Board meetings are held monthly and are open to all current HCRA members. See Bob, WF1R for details.

Editorial

(This editorial is strictly the opinion of the editor and does not necessarily represent the opinions or view of the HCRA officers, directors or members.)

I'm beginning to wonder if anyone is out there. I asked for a couple of times, if someone would like to feed (you don't have to write) me information on DX or PCs or any of the other columns we have out there. Kudos to Gene AA1DM for sending in an ad. As I said in that column before, everyone must be happy with their equipment (or maybe everyone is saving their equipment for the auction).

We're dealing with apathy here. If you enjoy listening to only what the board of directors is doing for fun, then don't send anything in for Vox-Pop. If you don't care about DX, then don't call or write about DX.

This is your Zerobeat and we would like to hear about you. Call me on the phone, send me a note (handwritten or typed) or see me at a meeting. Let me know what you are doing in ham radio!

Steve WA1EYF (596-8216)

October Meeting

Speaker to Be Announced

October 4, 1996, 8:00 pm, Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Editor: Steve Nelson, WA1EYF

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Forwarding and address correction requested

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